



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 23, 2009

### **Fresno County Farm Bureau's FAACT Class VII is announced**

The Fresno County Farm Bureau has announced its selection for the Future Advocates for Agriculture Concerned about Tomorrow (FAACT) Leadership Development Class VII for 2009-10.

Class VII is a diverse cross-section from local business, governmental and agricultural industries, including both public and private sectors. Members of the class are:

- Kristen Avery, Bank of the West, Clovis
- Councilmember Andreas Borgeas, City of Fresno, Fresno
- Jeffrey Carr, Deerpoint Group, Inc., Fresno
- Kerri Ginis, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce, Fresno
- Emilio Miranda, Allied Grape Growers, Fresno
- Lorna Schultz-Roush, Schultz Ranch Inc., Riverdale
- Anthony Serpa, AgriLand Farming Company, Fresno
- Stephen Sotomayor, Councilmember Andreas Borgeas' Office, Fresno
- Elizabeth Steinhauer-Clark, Bolen Fransen LLP, Fresno
- Debra Tom McCray, Assemblymember Juan Arambula's Office, Fresno

The award-winning FAACT Program is an eight-month intensive, educational program for community leaders to acquire knowledge on a broad spectrum of issues affecting our region, particularly the agricultural sector. The Program strives to offer a balanced and comprehensive review of timely issues with an agricultural connection to help participants develop tools to become effective advocates for long-term economic vitality and well-being of the region.

The day-long, one-day-a-month seminars discuss agricultural labor and immigration, air quality, land use planning, trade and biotechnology. Because of water's importance to the region, two of the sessions provide a comprehensive focus on watersheds, water resource management, groundwater, and water quantity and quality issues of Fresno County's major water sources, including the San Joaquin and Kings rivers and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The first class session will be on Oct. 12, which is designed to be a comprehensive overview of the county's crop diversity.

Direct questions to Teresa Plascencia at (559) 237-0263 or email: [teresap@fcfb.org](mailto:teresap@fcfb.org).

Fresno County Farm Bureau represents more than 4,800 members on air quality, land use, water, labor and agricultural related issues. Fresno County produces more than 350 commercial crops annually, totaling almost \$5.7 billion dollars in gross production value.